

The McGill Daily

Left wing, granola-eating, bicycle-riding smart asses since 1911

What makes a couple?

MONTRÉALERS FIGHT FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES' RIGHTS

by Anup Grewal

David Brody feels that many gay rights have already been won in Canada.

Ironically, he and four other gay men in Montréal are fighting for same-sex couples' rights in the Québec courts.

The group, which is being represented by the Québec Human Rights Commission, is challenging the provincial Pension Board's refusal to grant them survival pensions after their partners died, because they had same-sex relationships.

Using the section in the Québec Human rights Charter which stipulates that sexual orientation is a basis for discrimination, the group is calling the Board's decisions unconstitutional.

The Board's regulations say only couples who are married or have lived together in a common law marriage for more than three years are eligible for the pension if one of the partners dies.

But, says the Board's Norman Trotter, "the pension is only for couples of different sexes, not for those of the same-sex even if they have been living together [for the required] three years."

This doesn't make any sense to Brody. He and his partner lived together as a couple for 23 years. They co-owned three houses in the city, they were in each others' wills, they went on vacations together, and even sponsored a young Vietnamese woman for four years.

"It was exactly like a common law marriage," and it was recognised as such by friends, family and community, says Brody.

But these proofs don't seem to be enough. Last week, Brody and the other four men went to a hearing at the Québec Commission on Social Affairs which is examining the case.

At the tribunal, the Québec Attorney General pulled out the standard dictionary definition of a 'couple'.

"He [the Attorney General] said a couple is a man and a woman living in a marital situation with the possibility of procreation," remembers Regan Lebeau, another member of the group challenging

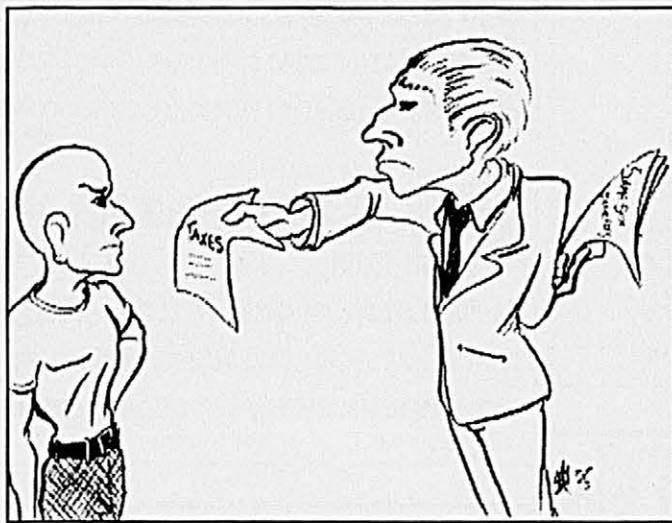
the Pension Board.

Brody questions the idea that a couple is defined by their procreative potential.

"If a couple has to be capable of having children, then if you follow this logically, if a couple decides not to have children, then they should not get the pension either, but they do," comments Brody.

"The Québec government is practicing discrimination against the regulations in its own charter, because of loopholes," he criticises.

Moreover, Brody asserts,



DAILY GRAPHIC BY MAX FRANCISCO

while same-sex partners pay into the system through taxes, they don't get anything back.

"They are taking our money and not giving us our rights. That is straight discrimina-

tion," says Brody.

In the last election, the Parti Québécois promised to recognise same-sex marital rights. While leader of the federal

opposition party with the Bloc

FROM CHARTERS TO LEGISLATION

The battle of the four Montréalers comes at a frustrating time for those fighting for gay rights in both Canada and Québec.

"Basically, the [federal] Liberals have broken their promises and the Parti Québécois has not kept theirs," says Brody.

However, the PQ has yet to live up to its own mandate and to Québec's reputation as one of the most progressive provinces in granting gay rights.

The federal government's record is no better. Last week, the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission castigated the federal Liberals for not acting to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In response, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien announced that

cont'd on page 2

Far from freedom

LEONARD PELTIER'S PAROLE APPEAL DENIED

by M-J Milloy

The walls around Leavenworth Prison grew a bit taller, and the Kansas prairie slid a little further away from Leonard Peltier last week, after his latest appeal for parole was denied.

The controversial decision was released last Thursday by the United States Parole Commission (USPC). The USPC decision overturned the recommendation of Peltier's parole officer, who felt that Peltier should be paroled.

The anonymous parole officer's recommendation was the closest Peltier has come to freedom since entering Leavenworth prison 20 years ago.

In 1976, Peltier was convicted of the murders of two FBI agents in a firefight between the FBI and members of the American Indian Movement (AIM). The government contended that Peltier killed the agents at close range after they had been wounded.

The parole commission could find no other "reasonable explanation of the agents' execution other than the version presented by the government," and found no reason

to grant parole.

As well, they faulted Peltier for not providing a "factual [and] specific account of [his] actions" during the deaths of the agents "that is consistent with the jury's verdict of guilty."

Finally, the committee could find "no significant changes" in the case since the trial which might cause them to reconsider Peltier's plight.

But it was precisely the 'significant changes' in the facts surrounding the incident that gave Peltier supporters hope that the parole officer's recommendation would be accepted.

Since the last parole hearing Peltier's prosecutor Lynn Crooks has admitted that the government "really does not know who shot the agents."

Crooks' uncertainty stems from the inconsistency in the evidence used to convict Peltier. At the original trial, the government alleged they had matched the bullets to a gun owned by Peltier.

However, further testing has proved that none of the guns accessible to Peltier could have fired the fatal shots.

"All the government is able

to prove is that Leonard was at Pine Ridge that day — but the USPC did not recognise this," said Lisa Faruolo, a member of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (LPDC).

"Anyone who has read the letter from the USPC [announcing their decision] can see just how lame and ridiculous their reasoning is," she said.

"They said that Leonard has not given a 'factual and specific' account of his actions that is consistent with the jury's guilty verdict," continued Faruolo.

"How can an innocent man give a 'factual and specific' account of a crime that he did not commit?"

ALL POLITICS

Peltier supporters across the United States and Canada had eagerly awaited the decision of the USPC, hoping that after 20 years of justice delayed, the recommendation of the parole officer might signal the beginning of justice delivered.

Now, however, many Peltier supporters view the new USPC decision as another example of how Peltier's case has less to do with guilt or innocence, and everything to do with

politics.

"It is more convenient to keep an innocent man in jail than to deal with the controversy and impropriety that may erupt from his release," said Lisa Hellwig, another executive member of the LPDC.

Supporters of Peltier were not the only ones attempting to influence the Parole Commission. The FBI also applied pressure to the commission to keep Peltier in jail — including taking out full-page advertisements in the New York Times.

Peltier is being kept in jail as a warning to others, according to Little Rock Reed, a founder of the New Mexico-based Centre for Advocacy of Human Rights.

"He is being used as an example of what the government in this country will do to those who speak out loudly about the injustices and oppression that they face."

Besides Peltier, another victim of the political forces surrounding the case might be the anonymous parole officer who recommended his release. His decision may have cost him his job, according to Faruolo.

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(See Calendar for complete course descriptions)

434-261A - MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

T Th 11:30-13:00; See Timetable for Conference Sections Times.
Changes in motor behaviour from conception to old age: Is a fat baby always a healthy baby? Why does a young child not catch a ball? What factors control upright posture? Relationship between physical activity and aging?

434-492A - PSYCHOLOGY OF MOTOR PERFORMANCE

M F 11:30-12:30; W 15:30-17:30
Psychological factors in the acquisition and performance of motor skills: personal learning and coping strategies, cognitive influences and stages of learning, influence of mental practice and imagery, optimize means for performance

434-498A - SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY OF SPORT

T Th 11:30-13:00
Social and psychological aspects of participation in physical activity and sport: goal setting, choking, superstitions, gamesmanship, anxiety and sensation seeking.

COUPLE (cont'd from cover):

the promised legislation to amend the Charter would be introduced before the next election.

However, Charles Mojsej of the Canadian Human Rights Commission is skeptical of the effects of changing charters and not following up with legislative changes.

"The problem is one of contradiction. We have certain acts that have certain [eligibility requirements] and then we have a Human Rights Charter that says something different. So we end up with cases like this in which the government has to be tested on how it is going to decide over the issues," comments Mojsej.

Furthermore, he maintains that changing the charters is no longer such a progressive step.

Pointing to last years Supreme Court decision that discrimination based on sexual orientation is unconstitutional, Mojsej says "never mind what the governments say, the courts have made a decision. Now the government must comply with it because as it stands, the legislation is inconsistent with the charter."

But the other side of that Supreme Court decision on a case made by James Egan — a man looking for spousal benefits as well — shows that the battle is far from won.

While the Supreme court ruled on sexual orientation being a form of discrimination, it also denied Egan the right to spousal benefits, arguing that in publicly funded programmes, it is allowable to limit who gets the funds based on the principles of a free and democratic society.

In light of this, while Brody and his partners are optimistic, they may have an uphill battle in front of them, especially considering they are the first to make such a case in Québec.

As Brody puts it "people resist change and the establishment resists change because of fear and ignorance."

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JSE 100a Introduction to Japanese Language I-II -6 cr
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BMG 350b International Japanese Management -3 cr
June 20-August 1, Tuesday & Thursday, 7:00 -10:00 pm

ECO 220b Japanese Economic Policy -3 cr
June 19-July 31, Monday & Wednesday, 7:00 -10:00 pm

HIS 271a Modern Japan -3 cr
May 6-June 17, Monday & Wednesday, 7:00 -10:00 pm



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Dr. Durand F. Jacobs

Professor of Psychiatry
Lorna Linda University School of Medicine
Lorna Linda, California

Evidence Supporting a General Theory of Addictions: Implications for new Treatment Methods

Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology
McGill University, Education Building
3700 McTavish, Room 129

April 1st, 1996

4:00 P.M.

This lecture has been made possible by a grant from the Beatty Memorial lectures Committee.
Dr. Jacobs is the recipient of the 1995 American Psychological Association Award for Distinguished contribution to Psychology in the Public Interest.

ALL WELCOME

Drop by the **McGill Computer Store** in Burnside Hall and enter to win a pair of AppleDesign Powered Speakers!

Speaker Draw Entry Form

ENTER TO WIN a pair of AppleDesign Powered Speakers! Use them with your Mac, PC or stereo. One pair will be won each Friday from March 8th to March 29th. Entries must be completed fully. No purchase required.

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letters

SSMU does not share Myers' and Remai's opinions To the Daily,

The Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) wishes to distance itself from any and all comments made by the SSMU President, Helena Myers, or the SSMU Vice-President Finance, Kelly Remai, regarding the student referendum of March 13-15, 1996 concerning the society's contract with Pepsi and Pepsi's involvement in Burma, and the creation of a Financial Ethics Research Committee. Their opinions in no way represent the opinion of the SSMU.

We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

Darrel Tan, Speaker, SSMU
Tara Newell, Speaker, SSMU

Correction about Head & Hands To the Daily,

I am writing to correct an error in your list of Montréal services for women's health (*The McGill Daily*, Women's Health Special Issue, Monday, 11 March 1996, p. 18).

À deux mains/Head & Hands is not a pharmacy. Our medical service provides information and counseling on a wide variety of health issues for women and men, including STD and HIV screening and a full range of contraceptive options. We sell the cervical cap, IUDs diaphragms and condoms at cost; we try to ensure that financial constraints do not prevent anyone who wishes to do so from practicing control over her reproductive system.

Ken Monteith
Executive Director

leading implications.

Firstly, the implication in many of your statements about fatalities is that Ecstasy was the primary cause of their death. While Ecstasy may have raised their pain threshold, in a study conducted on five of the earliest "Ecstasy Deaths," it was seen that "...three of the subjects had known medical problems before taking the drug, while one was killed by an electric shock apparently after having climbed a pylon. Two had pre-existing heart conditions and one had asthma. MDMA was thought not to have been the primary cause of death in four of these cases" (Dr. G. Dowling, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1987). It's accepted that an informed and conscientious user will not succumb to dehydration nor its complement. (The same, for or against, could be said of many drugs)

Another misleading implication is with regards to the serotonin level reductions exhibited by heavy E users. While it's been shown that depression is sometimes related to low serotonin levels, and that heavy ecstasy usage leads

to lower serotonin levels, in every case studied, habitual E users with lowered serotonin levels were seen to be happier, more relaxed and more balanced than the average person.

But enough with the details. Anyone interested in Ecstasy ought to take a look at *E for Ecstasy* by Nicholas Saunders (<http://www.hyperreal.com/drugs/e4x/index.html>). I just felt that, on the whole, your article was cynical and negative, which suggests to me that you really missed the point of the whole scene. Those are the two adjectives I would least associate with raves, whether I'd done E or just gone to dance away my exam-time stress.

E-mail to inquire about *Repetition*.

Simon Thornington
BSc U3
thorns@cs.mcgill.ca

What's in a name?

To the Daily,

Upon reading over my letter ("The Daily's Blind Eye"), I noticed that I confused the names of two Israeli

statesmen. The late Chaim Weizman was a leader of the Zionist movement and the first president of Israel. His nephew, Ezer Weizman, is a former general and Israel's acting head of state.

Often at odds with the current Labour government, President Ezer Weizman has refused to pardon Palestinian terrorists and has advocated a cautious approach to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Erik Schechter
Arts U3

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Ecstasy users better adjusted people?

To the Daily,

Although your article on raves was interesting, and uncharacteristically unbiased, there are a few mis-

Write for the final issue of the year

On April 11 the Daily will publish its last issue of the year about the university.

The issue will cover both McGill in its 175th year, as well as the significance of the university in our political and cultural environments.

Articles are being written now! Come down to the Daily office in Shalmer B-03 to add your voice to the issue.

Breaking the bubble-zone

B.C. Court overturns legislation protecting abortion clinics

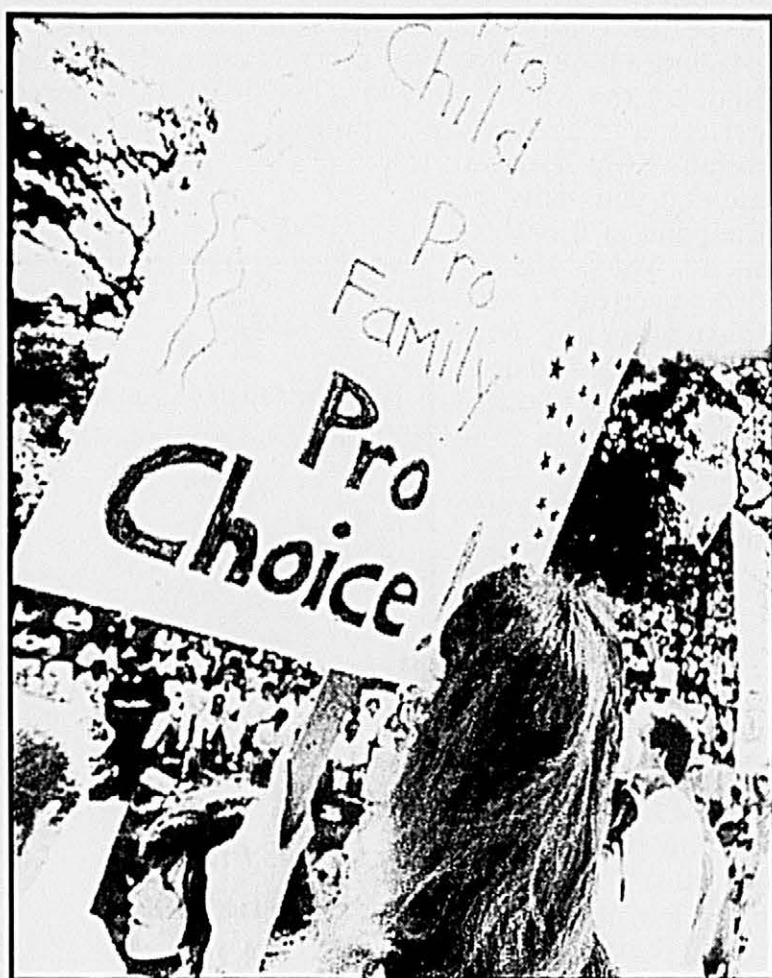


PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFFREY SCOTT, IMPACT VISUALS

by Amanda Growe

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A British Columbia Provincial Court decision to strike down controversial bubble-zone legislation will result in a renewed wave of harassment for women seeking abortions, according to pro-choice advocates.

B.C.'s NDP government established the 50-metre buffer zones around abortion clinics, doctor's homes and individuals under the Access to Abortion Services Act in 1995. The law came as a response to violence aimed at abortion clinics and abortion providers, which peaked in January of that year.

Terror-attacks like the shooting of Dr. Garsom Romalis — who subsequently bled to death — set the stage for the bubble-law to be passed.

While there have been no shootings of abortion providers in B.C. of late, strong anti-abortion protest has continued.

According to Kim Zander, spokesperson for Everywoman's Health Centre, now that the Access to Abortion Services Act has been ren-

dered ineffective, protesters have become even more aggressive 'sidewalk counselors'.

"Anti-abortion activists try talking to women who don't want to have anything to do with them," says Zander of the anti-abortion protesters who try to discourage women from entering abortion clinics.

"They are carrying offensive signage with accusations and, of course, statements about their own religious beliefs on abortion, which I believe is an offense to other people who don't have the same opinions," Zander said.

The Provincial Court's ruling came down during the trial of Maurice Lewis, an anti-abortionist arrested for trespassing the access zone of a clinic with an anti-abortion placard and later refusing to leave when asked by police.

The Court ruled that the Act violated "freedom of expression and freedom of association" as well as "freedom of conscience and religion because protesters were professing their faith at the clinic."

Since parts of the Act are

contradictory to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the charges against Lewis were dismissed.

Kay Stockholder, president of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, says her organisation supported the access zone.

"We thought that though those issues [freedom of speech] are real, they were outweighed by the right to privacy of the people seeking abortions and their right to an unimpeded access to their legal right to an abortion."

Campaign Life Coalition (CLC), a Canadian group active in the anti-abortion movement, approved of the court's decision.

"We are happy that justice was served, and happy that we can now have the freedom of speech in Vancouver again," said CLC President John Hof.

"But we're never happy with the outcome of a trial that still allows the killing of children to go on," he added.

Prior to the January decision, Hof says protesters were allowed to hold prayer vigils inside the bubble zones but could make no reference to abortion.

Since the verdict, protesters are allowed to pray, carry signs about abortion and talk to women coming to the clinic within the access zone.

Actions such as these are seen by many pro-choice advocates to be unacceptable.

"It's not really protest, it's harassment," Zander says, noting that other medical establishments which provide services like organ transplants would never have to deal with such intense protest, even though the practice offends some religious beliefs.

B.C. is not the only province which responded to anti-abortion violence by implementing injunctions against violent or intimidating demonstrators. After the Romalis shooting in B.C., injunctions were taken out against demonstrators in other Canadian cities as well.

Presently, private injunctions against protesting in Ontario protect 17 people. According to Cathy Colombo, chief of operations at

Toronto's Morgantaler clinic, the injunctions have made a positive difference in the clinic's ability to provide services.

But the injunctions currently in place in Ontario are not always effective in the face of anti-abortion sentiment.

On November 11 of last year, Dr. Hugh Short, who performed abortions, was shot in his home in Ancaster, Ontario, despite the fact his house was covered by injunction.

The B.C. Provincial Court's decision seems to contradict the precedent set by the Supreme Court of Canada, which ruled that women have a right to unimpeded access to abortions. The right to access precedent was set in the case against Dr. Henry Morgantaler, who has been providing abortions in the country over the past couple decades.

The B.C. government will appeal the Provincial Court's decision by May.

Source: *The Ubysey, University of British Columbia, with files from Jacqueline Reis*

STUD

by Zachary Schwartz

The stakes have been raised.

After almost two years of negotiations with university administration, McGill's TA union took to the streets last week to voice their concerns.

The one-day strike was largely in response to McGill's salary proposal, tabled on the 22 month anniversary of negotiations between the union and McGill's administration.

With the participation of representatives from other Montréal universities' student unions, the FNEEQ and the CSN, the TA union believes the walk-out was a success.

"The whole day was characterised by strong support from the McGill and Montréal community and a very powerful feeling of solidarity for teaching assistants and lab demonstrators," said Hugh Potter, co-ordinator of McGill's TA union.

Thanks to coverage by television, radio and print media, Potter said, the union's voice was heard beyond the university.

Striking TAs picketed in

brief

B.C. Gov tu

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Going against the trend of provincial governments slashing social programs, British Columbia Premier Glen Clark has announced a one-year freeze in tuition fees at all B.C. post-secondary institutions.

Clark has gone on record saying that he wants to send a message to other provincial governments about slashing social spending.

"We must protect health care and education funding from these federal cuts," he announced to students gathered at Langara College in downtown Vancouver.

The announcement comes after Clark's March 15 promise to formulate a new job creation program designed to provide 11 500 jobs for B.C. youth.

Michael Gardiner, B.C. Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, gave credit to the provincial government for responding to widespread student appeals.

"Finally, we have a government which listens to the concerns of students and appears to recognise the need of our society for a more accessible public post-secondary education system," he said in an

DENTS PROTEST SALARY CUTS

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE BUT TAs DISSATISFIED

DAILY PHOTO BY DAVID RYTHER

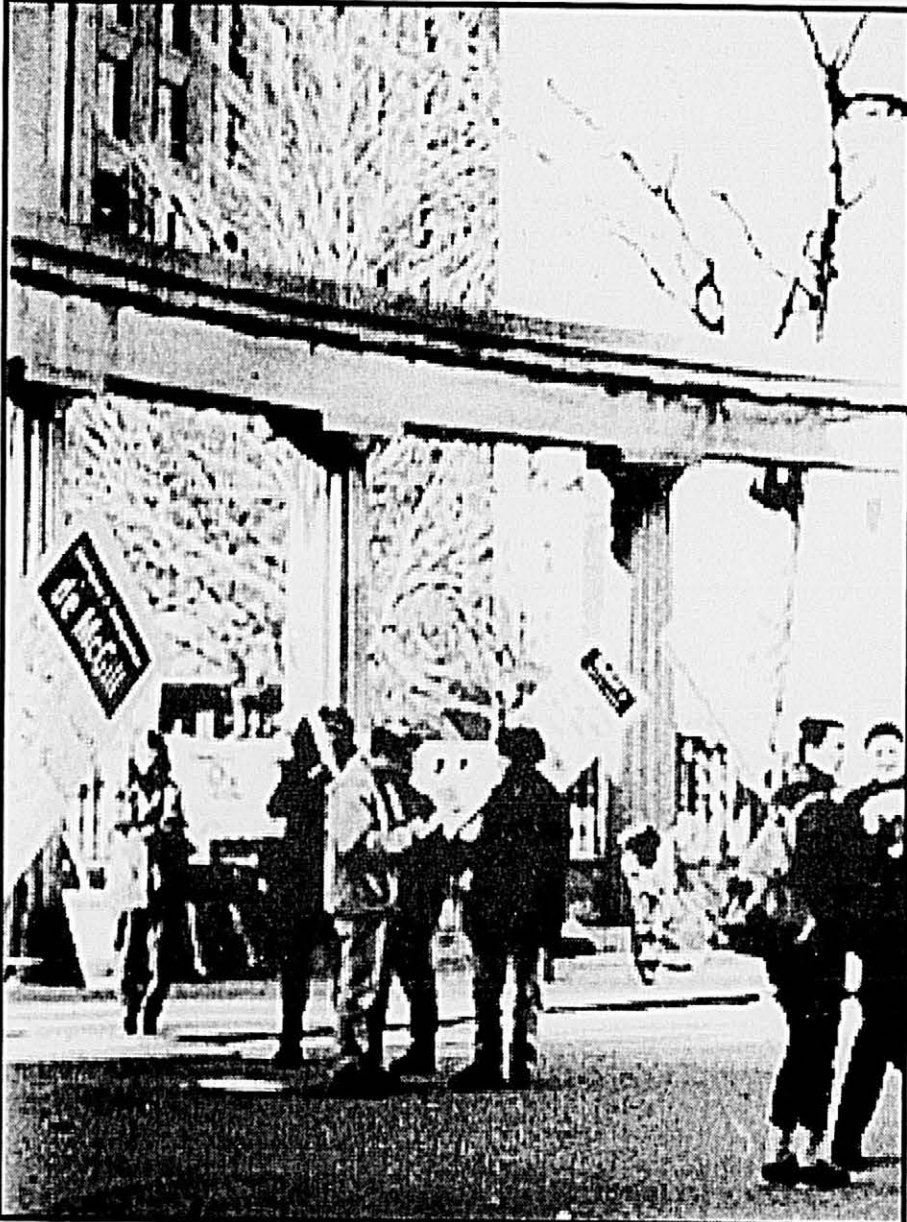
front of McGill's Roddick Gates, garnering support from pedestrians and passing cars on Sherbrooke Street. The crowd reached a morning peak of about 100 people, who listened to speeches from Carleton and Concordia students, representatives of McGill's Post Graduate Students' Society, and McGill undergraduate Students' Society president-elect Chris Carter, among others.

Although McGill would not allow its picketing TAs onto campus, Potter was pleased that most cars did not cross the picket line into McGill.

"Over 90 per cent of vehicles turned around to physically show their support," said Potter.

Potter did not address the fact that, despite voting 125 to 67 in favour of mandating the strike, some TAs refused to participate in the walk-out.

Although under the Québec Labour Code it was illegal for any of McGill's TAs, lab demonstrators and



marker-graders to work during the one-day strike, some TAs chose to teach their conferences as scheduled.

In a radio interview, Principal Bernard Shapiro claimed that the strike had no impact on McGill.

McGill's new Executive Director of Human Resources Robert Savoie would only say that "the TAs exercised their rights," explaining that "the TAs had picket lines and they didn't prevent anyone from entering the university."

Savoie, hired last month, is the only person authorised by McGill to speak on behalf of the university on the state of negotiations with the TA union.

the departments," he said, outlining that tuition fee waivers and bursary components will not be addressed by the administration. Rather, it will up to the departments to set the support level for their graduate students.

Joe O'Shea, one of the elected representatives on the TA union's bargaining committee believes that leaving a guarantee for graduate support out of the proposed contract is an abdication of responsibility on the part of McGill.

By eliminating the tuition fee waivers from the negotiations, he argues, McGill is giving its departments an excuse not to guarantee funding for their students.

The delicate relationship between TAs and their supervisors has also been affected by the negotiations. This year, according to Potter, an increasing number of graduate students have been faced with some sort of harassment for their involvement with the union.

But less than five cases of harassment have been clear enough to pursue and none of the TAs involved have felt it necessary to bring up a formal complaint, said Potter.

"It's a serious thing to take a department to court," he explained.

Under the Québec Labour Code it is illegal for an employer to interfere with an employee's involvement in a union.

On February 19, Robert Savoie posted the following message to McGill faculty: "While faculty are free to express their views, all are cautioned that the Labour Code of the province of Québec strictly prohibits the use of intimidation, discrimination or reprisals, threat of dismissal or of sanctions to compel an employee to refrain from or cease exercising their right to strike."

The next meeting between the TA union and McGill is scheduled for today. A general meeting for all members of the TA union will be held April 2.

ernment freezes ition fees

address following Clark's speech.

But in a CFS press release, Gardiner noted that the second wave of cuts planned by the federal government will make it hard for the B.C. government to maintain its tuition freeze. As a result, he says that students in B.C. will keep up the pressure.

Pointing to these probable cuts, Clark would not commit to extending the tuition freeze beyond next year.

While the tuition freeze is good news for students, others are viewing the decision with scepticism.

B.C. Liberal leader Gordon Campbell says the freeze is no more than a repeat of past NDP political promises.

"Yet again we see the NDP saying one thing and doing another — back in April 1990 we saw Glen Clark make almost a carbon-copy promise," Campbell charged, referring to the NDP's 1991-92 tuition freeze that was dropped only a year after its implementation, during Clark's term as Finance Minister.

Campbell added that average B.C. tuition fees have jumped almost 25 per cent since that time, subsequently

suggesting that a provincial Liberal government would protect education funding from federal cuts by downsizing government.

On top of freezing tuition fees, Clark has also increased provincial post-secondary funding. Next year, the B.C. government will increase funding to universities and colleges by \$16.5 million, making room for an extra 7,000 students in the province's post-secondary institutions.

Sources: *The Ubysey, University of British Columbia; The Martlet, University of Victoria*

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Savoie maintains that McGill's proposed salary of around \$10 per hour is in line with rates paid by Québec and, specifically, Montréal universities. He would not, however, comment on bringing the TA salary closer to the Canadian average, which, according to the TA union is about \$25 per hour.

In a recent article in the *McGill Reporter*, however, Savoie welcomes McGill's recent commitments to bring its faculty salaries more in line with those of other major Canadian universities.

Savoie pointed out that as far as the university is concerned, it is basic pay rates — not general graduate support — that is being negotiated in the proposed contract between McGill and its TAs.

"The student support component will be dealt with by

SPEAKING OUT ON HEALTH AND JUSTICE

NICARAGUAN ACTIVIST KEEPS WOMEN'S ISSUES ON THE FRONT-LINE

by Andrea Cooke

Olga Maria Espinoza, an activist from Nicaragua, sees a disturbing trend in the new economic policies of the Nicaraguan government. Speaking at the Social Justice Committee here in Montréal, Espinoza spoke about the consequences of the drastic cutbacks to social services in her country.

"The neo-liberal policies of the new government have had devastating effects on the country side," said Espinoza.

The government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, which replaced the leftist Sandinista government in 1990, is currently following structural adjustment programmes prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Both of these bodies have stipulated a reduction in public spending and an increase in private investment in Nicaragua's economy, a mandate they have also given to several other countries.

So far Chamorro has complied to the programme by embarking upon a project of privatising state enterprises and undoing an agrarian reform programme providing more equitable land distribution, a programme implemented under the Sandinistas.

Espinoza also pointed to rural health care in Nicaragua as an area in which Chamorro's policies have taken a definite toll.

"In the countryside, there are health posts with nothing in them, not even a pain-killer," she said.

"The supplies have run out and no effort has been made to replenish them. A doctor may appear at the clinic once a month, or even once a week, however because there are no supplies, the patients are given prescriptions which they cannot afford to buy," she continued.

The situation is similar in hospitals. Entire hospital wings are being privatised while only small sections are being left for public use. What this means, said Espinoza, is that only those who can afford it can get the proper treatment.

"The wing of the hospital that is still the public sphere has nothing and people are expected to buy the thread if they need to be stitched up," said Espinoza.

The lack of proper health care facilities coupled by a failing rural economy is leading to the growing problem of malnutrition in the country side, leaving some people close to starvation. And women are the most affected by malnutrition, said Espinoza.

"The reason seems to be because women feed their families first and then eat what is left over, which is often nothing. Many women have several children which also takes its toll on the body."

As one of the founding members of the Agricultural Workers Association (ATC) — a trade union for em-

ployed workers — Espinoza is concentrating her efforts on women's sustainable agriculture.

The ATC's Rural Women's Committee, of which Espinoza is also a founder, is involved with projects in agricultural production to help women survive.

Espinoza is presently working with a group of rural women who have become unemployed as a result of the crisis in the production of cotton. With coffee crops being given a priority in the agricultural economy these days, land for cotton plantations is mostly sitting idle.

"Our aim is for women to

be able to produce enough to eat and able to have enough income to replant and perpetuate this productive system," explained Espinoza.

The women farm on collective plots of land, hoping to save enough from year to year in order to reinvest for the planting of the next crop and maintain an independent production system.

"This may not be what's considered sustainability in other contexts, but in our context, it is sustainability," she added.

Along with the provision of an alternative approach to agricultural production, pro-

viding training and technical advice, other women's programmes have also been undertaken by Espinoza.

"We have an illiteracy program with a gender and political perspective to help women develop a new social model," she explained.

In light of the structural adjustment being carried on by Chomorro and the IMF, the work of the ATC becomes especially significant for women. Espinoza's efforts at the ATC make it the first mass organisation in Nicaragua to work with a specific gender emphasis to ensure that women's issues are not put on the back burner.

Events

Monday, March 25

• Shakti, the English Dept., Women's Union and the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women present authors Larissa Lai and Chrystos in Arts 160, 19h30.

Wednesday, March 27

• North American Studies Students' Association elections and final meeting of semester in Arts 145, 17h30. Info: 499-0507.

• Concordia Irish lecture series presents "Ireland in the European Union: Experience and Prospects" in 1455 de Maisonneuve O., room H-767, 20h. Info: 848-2435.

• LBGT M Bisexual discussion group meeting in Shatner 423, 18h30.

Thursday, March 28

• McGill Marxist-Leninist Study Group presents Hardial Bains, national leader of CPC(ML) in Shatner 302, 18h30. Info: 522-1373.

• WISE/PGSS presents a speaker series on "Alternative Careers in Science," in Thomson House (3650 McTavish), 18h.

• Presbyterian College (3495 University) presents organist Kevin Komisaruk playing works by Racquet, Buxtehude and Bach, 12h10-12h50. Info: 288-5256.

• LBGT M All-Womyn's group in Shatner 423, 18h30.

Friday, March 29

• McGill Students for

AIDS Education (MSAE) presents Joanna Broadhurst of the AIDS Intervention Centre on "Women and AIDS: an Overview" in Leacock 26, 12h30-13h30. Info: Gambrelli, 989-9122

• McGill Outing Club presents a mountaineering photography lecture by mountaineer Fred Beckey in Leacock 26. Info: 398-6817.

• LBGT M Coming Out and Men's groups in UTC basement (3521 University), 17h30 and 19h, respectively.

• LBGT M Queer Café in Bar California (St. Elisabeth, north of St. Catherine), 20h.

Saturday, March 30

• Librairie Alternative (2035 St. Laurent) spring video series presents the documentary "The Mohawk Resistance at Kanehsatake," 18h. Admission: voluntary donation. Info: 844-3207.

• SALSA and MAIS present "International Night" in the Medical Annex (3708 Peel), 21h. Featuring international music and dance. Admission: \$4 members, \$5 non-members.

• Junior Associates Committee of the Cedars Cancer Institute presents "Swing into Spring" dance at Just For Laughs Museum. All proceeds to Edward J. Tabah

Oncology day centre in Royal Victoria Hospital. Info: 737-5576.

• CKUT funding drive benefit show at Café So (12 Rachel O.), 21h. Featuring Slaphappy 5, Fearless Freep, Steak 72 and Milken. Info: Rob, 843-4137.

• McGill Living Testimonies Autobiographical Project presents "Issues Around Holocaust Denial," by Ed Foxman in 2020 University rm 2401, 20h30. Info: Renée, 398-3294.

Ongoing

• First Annual University Holocaust Symposium, March 27-28. Events include: opening ceremony, video and photographic exhibit, discussions on the topic of hate literature and keynote address by Abraham Foxman, director of The Anti-Defamation League. Events held in Shatner 107/108 and Leacock 26. Info: 845-9171.

• Book Fair at the Newman Centre (3484 Peel), March 22-27, except March 24.

• Volunteers are needed for the Shalom Line that provides a confidential, anonymous listening service for people in distress. Info 735-3541 local 3380.

• Tel-Aide listening service needs volunteers. Info:

935-1105.

• The McGill Journal for Middle East Studies is accepting submissions for its 1996 issue. Drop off your paper in the MESSA box in Leacock 414. Info: Alan, 341-0927, or Sarah, 845-9962.

• The Yellow Door needs volunteers during the summer to spend time with seniors living downtown. Info: Leigh Ann or Jo-Anne, 398-943.

• Volunteer drivers needed to provide transportation to seniors with reduced mobility. Info: Joanne, 932-3433.

• AMI Québec (Alliance for the Mentally Ill) education sessions starting in April. Registration begins immediately. Info: 486-1448.

• Anxiety and Panic Attack therapy group in Bishop Medical Centre (1440 St. Catherine O.), every Wednesday, April 24 - June 19. Info: 685-1006.

• Repath Museum and McGill's Conservation Biology class present "Ridiculous Wrappings," concerning the packaging of consumer goods. Exhibit runs until April 4. Info: Eli, 288-9157.

• Montréal Assault Prevention Centre self defense course for women, ACTION. Register now. Info: 284-1212.

• Erskine and American United Church (3407 du Musée) thrift shop and bazaar every Monday 10h-16h. Donations welcome. Info: 849-3286.

• Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre of Montréal summer courses. Register now. Info: 728-5580

PELTIER (cont'd from page one):

"We called up his office to talk to him, and we were told that he is no longer with the USPC." Hellwig echoes Faruolo's explanation of the 'mystery' around the fate of the parole officer.

"Rather than face the facts of Peltier's outrageous incarceration, the USPC would rather scold its own employee for overstepping his bounds."

ACTIONS FOR PELTIER

Support groups in a number of American cities held demonstrations to pressure the USPC to follow the parole officer's recommendation.

The largest demonstration occurred in San Francisco, where over 300 protesters blocked the entrance to the federal justice building before stopping traffic

at a busy downtown intersection.

Actions in Washington, D.C., held an even greater symbolic value than the larger San Francisco demonstration.

In the early afternoon of March 20, almost 100 protesters blocked the front entrance to the federal justice building. They hoped to pressure the department into upholding the parole officer's decision — detailed in a document that was somewhere inside the building.

The protest "didn't do any actual damage; it was just a symbolic action," said Michael, a member of Free/Liberez Leonard Peltier, a Montréal group that travelled to the American capitol.

Demonstrations were also held in Minneapolis and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Although the public pressure has not influenced the USPC decision — which had already been released by the time of the Washington demonstration — it has highlighted the significance of Leonard Peltier in the minds of many native and non-native people.

"Freedom from a prison cell will mean a long struggle rewarded for the native community who has supported his freedom from day one," said Dennis Banks, the AIM organiser who took Peltier and other AIM members to Pine Ridge over 20 years ago.

For Little Rock Reed, the USPC decision has not only important political meaning, but also deep personal significance.

"Leonard is a peaceful man, a spiritual man, a good man — and there is no reason for him to be in jail, except as a symbol."

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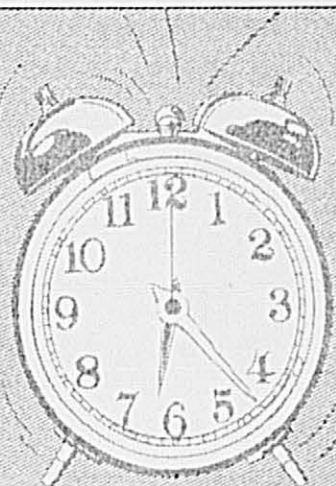
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